

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 8, and 9, and add new Claims 10 and 11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:

an original placement portion on which an original is to be placed;

an optical unit means configured to move for optically scanning the original on the original placement portion while moving relative to the original placement portion; and

a guide member that guides movement of the optical unit means;

wherein said optical unit means includes a sliding member having a screw portion that slides in contact with the guide member, and a screw hole portion to which the sliding member is mounted, and

the screw portion of the sliding member being plastically deformable and screwed into the screw hole portion while being plastically deformed.

2.(Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein play between the screw portion and the screw hole portion is substantially eliminated by plastic deformation of said screw portion.

3. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said screw portion is provided with a plurality of plastically deformable portions that are arranged circumferentially.

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said screw portion is provided clear of a tip end portion of said sliding member.

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said sliding member has an engagement portion to which a rotating tool is to engage.

6. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said screw portion is made of a resin material.

7. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a sliding portion and the screw portion of said sliding member are an integrally molded resin part.

8. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein ~~there are~~ a plurality of said sliding members [[that]] are provided at both respective end portions of said optical unit with respect to a direction orthogonal to a moving direction of the optical member respectively.

9. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said plastically deformable screw portion is provided over such a length that enables adjustment of a position of the optical unit ~~means~~ by adjusting an engagement position of the screw portion and the screw hole portion.

10. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an illuminating unit configured to illuminate the original on the original placement portion,

wherein the optical unit has a mirror configured to reflect a reflection light from the original that is illuminated with the illuminating unit.

11. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the optical unit has a frame portion configured to hold an optical element, and

a position of the frame portion relative to the guide member is adjusted by the rotating of the screw portion of the sliding member.